Trade between India and West Germany

2306. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether liberalisation of economic policy and pragmatic attitude of Government towards foreign Investment have encouraged German Companies to increase their involvement in India;

(b) if so, to what extent the trade between India and West Germany have increased as a result thereof; and

(c) what are the fields in which collaboration between the two countries is being further strengthened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) to (c) Indo-FRG trade increased from Rs. 1443 crores in 1983-84 to Rs. 1717 crores in 1984-85 (Provisional). There has, of late been considerable interest evinced by countries like the Federal Republic of Germany in exploring possibilities and opportunities for technology transfer and industrial collaboration including joint ventures with Indian enterprises. The major areas of collaboration between India and FRG so far cover product groups like machinery, chemicals and pharmaceuticals.

Increase of import duty on TPA and DMT

2307. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for the recent increase of import duty on T.P.A. and D.M.T. raw materials for polyester filament yarn from 140 per cent to 190 per cent.

(b) what are the reasons for putting T.P.A. under "limited permissible items" taking it off from the O.G.L. List; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Bombay Dyeing had been permitted to purchase a Record hand plant from "Hercofina" of U.S.A. in 1982 for producing D.M.T. which was supposed to produce 65,000 tonnes per annum but has produced only 10,400 tonnes leading to waste of foreign exchange as well as rupee resources; if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) The rate structure of import duty on TPA and DMT, both of which are used in the manufacture of synthetic filament yarn etc. was revised in order to maintain the competitive position of indigenously manufactured DMT.

(b) To regulate the import of TPA.

(c) The DMT plant of M/s. Bombay Dyeing has gone into production only recently. Production at the rated capacity in such plants is normally achieved over a period of time. It is early yet to assess production capability of this plant on a sustained basis. Import of capital goods for this plant was allowed in accordance with the import policy prevailing at the relevant time.

Steps to reduce unemployment

2308. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Central and State Governments to reduce the growing unemployment among skilled, semi-skilled and un-skilled artisans and labour in the rural areas and with what results so far; and

(b) the details of schemes, if any, being implemented by the Central and State Governments to widen and diversify the scope and facilities for